

Application No.: 09/853,426

Docket No.: H1139.0101/P101

REMARKS

Claims 10-17 are pending. Claim 10 is the only independent claim. Claim 17 has been added to provide a more complete scope of protection. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 U.S. Patent 6,466,202 (Suso et al) in view of U.S. Patent 6,304,763 (Jahagirdar et al.). Applicants submit that independent claim 10 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 10 is directed to a folding portable communication unit. The unit includes: a first cabinet; a second cabinet, the first cabinet and the second cabinet being supported by a hinge so as to be rotatable around the hinge; a first key unit situated on an obverse surface of the first cabinet or the second cabinet and from which a user inputs first data; a second key unit situated on a rear cover of the first or second cabinet and from which the user inputs second data in a case that the first cabinet and the second cabinet are folded in a closed position; a first display situated on an obverse surface of the first cabinet and which displays first information; a second display situated on a rear surface of the first cabinet or the second cabinet and which displays second information, the second information being viewable by the user in a case that the first cabinet and the second cabinet are folded in the closed position; a common display driver operable to drive both the first display and the second display; and a control unit operable to make the common display driver decide which of the first display and the second display is to be used. The folding portable communication unit is operable to permit verbal telephone communication only in a case that the first cabinet and the second cabinet are in an open position.

By virtue of the recited features, e.g., the simplified LCD (e.g., 26) and the LCD (e.g., 20) can be driven by a single LCD driver, which reduces the mounting area as well as power consumption.

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In the Office Action, it was conceded that Suso does not teach that a common display driver is used to drive both the first and second displays. The position was taken in the Office Action that Jahagirdar remedies this deficiency. Applicant disagrees.

In Suso et al., because the same image is viewed at both of the obverse surface and rear surface through the see-through LCD part 10, the image displayed on the see-through LCD part 10 should be reversed when the portable information communication unit is folded. Still further, the image of the see-through LCD part 10 to be superimposed on the image displayed on the multicolored LCD part 11 is typically different from the image displayed on the multicolored LCD part 11.

Due to the relative complexity of such a driving scheme, the technique of controlling the images displayed on the see-through LCD part 10 and the multicolored LCD part 11 Suso et al. would be significantly more complex than driving the displays driven in Jahagirdar et al. In view of the difference in complexity, the mere fact that Jahagirdar et al. discusses the possibility of using a common display driver, in a unit have a much simpler driving scheme, would *not* render it obvious to those skilled in the art to apply the use of a common display driver in configuring the folding portable communication unit as disclosed by Suso et al., with its much more complex driving scheme. For at least this reason, it would not have been obvious to make the proposed combination.

Second, a person having ordinary skill in the art would generally consider that different kinds of display drivers are needed for different displays. Therefore, it would be assumed by the person having ordinary skill in the art, absent any particular teaching to the contrary, that the first and second displays 10, 11 in Suso would need different kinds of display drivers.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to use a common display driver in Suso, despite the teachings of Jahagirdar.

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New claim 17 recites that the first and second displays are provided on the rear surface and the obverse surface of the same cabinet. In Suso, a see-through LCD part 10, which could be said to correspond to the second display of the present invention, is transparent such that the second information can be viewed both in the opened position and the closed position. When using the portable information communication unit of Suso as a portable telephone device, since the multi-colored LCD part 11 is used as a telephone manipulation part in the form of touch key board such as ten-key board as shown in Fig. 3a, the see-through LCD part 10 should be used for displaying the second information in the opened position. In the closed position, the second information is superposed on the first information displayed on a multicolored LCD part 11. For at least this reason, the see-through LCD part 10 and the multicolored LCD part 11 cannot be provided at the rear surface and the obverse surface of the same cabinet, as in new dependent claim 17.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration, or consideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance, and its entry is therefore requested. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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